

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Protecting Long Island Sound

Long Island Sound is one of Connecticut’s most precious natural resources, and it plays a major role in our local and state economies. It’s a source of employment, recreation and tourism. As a resident of a shoreline community and as vice chair of the General Assembly’s Environment Committee, I believe that it must be closely guarded and preserved.

This year, I voted to override the governor’s veto of a bill that creates a bi-state Long Island Sound Commission. This 14-member commission, which will include members from New York as well as Connecticut, will review major environmental, ecological and energy issues involving the Sound when potential threats arise, then seek consensus on strategies and recommend action.

I remain committed to meeting our goals of reducing nitrogen in the Sound and fighting negative impacts on our local fisheries. I believe that this commission will serve as a strong safeguard of this important resource and was proud to support its creation.



I recently joined Gracelyn Guyol of the clean water advocacy group, CUSH, to view some of the new plantings CUSH planted along the Stonington harborfront to absorb nutrient-rich runoff from lawns.



Support for the Sub Base

The U.S. Naval Submarine Base-New London contributes more than \$3 billion annually to our local and state economy and is a major employer in

southeastern Connecticut. This year, I worked to pass legislation that allows the federal Department of Defense to access \$50 million in state bonds to enhance infrastructure on the base. This action not only supports this important base, it also serves as another important demonstration of our commitment to keeping the base in Groton.



Preserving Connecticut Farmland

Much of Connecticut’s farmland and open space is in jeopardy of being paved over, threatening the state’s farming industry and quality of life. This new law helps the state permanently protect 1,300 acres of farmland across Connecticut. Thanks to the new law, farmers will have greater certainty that the land they depend on will remain farmland. A special board will also review options for preserving more open space and farmland—a boost for the economy and the environment.



State Senator
Andrew Maynard

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000, Hartford, CT 06106-1591
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E-mail: Maynard@senatedems.ct.gov
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Dear Neighbor,

These are difficult days for many residents of Connecticut. The global recession brought on by last year’s financial crisis has hit Connecticut hard. People have lost their jobs and even their homes. In these challenging times, I know many of our citizens may find themselves in need of help and information. I have included a list of phone numbers and Web sites that you may find helpful. If you have difficulty using any of these resources, please contact my office for further assistance.

Some difficult decisions lay ahead. I ask for your thoughts as we seek to put our state on a more sound financial footing, encourage business to grow and help get people back to work. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Maynard
State Senator

I’m proud to represent the
18th Senate District:
**Griswold, Groton,
North Stonington,
Plainfield, Preston,
Sterling, Stonington
& Voluntown**

Stay Informed in a “Green” Way

Sign-up to receive *Capitol News*, my monthly e-mail newsletter. It’s a paperless way for me to communicate with my constituents about timely issues that impact our communities and our state. To sign up, visit: www.SenatorMaynard.cga.ct.gov

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What’s happening at the State Capitol and around the state? Follow the Senate Democrats on Facebook and find out. Once again, it’s paperless, informative and immediate: www.facebook.com/CTSenateDemocrats

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State Senator
Andrew Maynard
18th District

RESOURCE GUIDE

Serving Griswold, Groton, North Stonington, Plainfield, Preston, Sterling, Stonington & Voluntown

FOR SENIORS

- ▶ **Agency on Aging**
The Senior Resources Agency on Aging in Norwich can connect you with the appropriate entities to deal with many of your needs including nutritional services, disease prevention and health promotion services, family caregivers support services and adult day care aide positions. Toll-free: 1-800-690-6998
- ▶ **CHOICES Program**
The CHOICES Program provides information to persons age 60 and older. Currently, CHOICES is assisting seniors who need help enrolling in Medicare Part D. 1-800-994-9422

ENERGY SAVINGS

At both the state and federal level, there are numerous ways for consumers to realize savings on their energy bills.

- ▶ **Federal Tax Credits**
To help reduce energy costs and protect our environment, the federal government is offering tax credits to individuals who invest in making their homes more energy efficient. www.energystar.gov
- ▶ **Help with Electric Bills**
The Forgiveness Program helps residential customers who heat with electricity and are having difficulty making payments. 1-800-322-9288
- ▶ **More Help with Electric Bills**
The Matching Payment Plan helps low-income customers maintain year-round service. 1-800-442-5004
- ▶ **Choose Your Electric Supplier**
The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered. 1-877-947-3873; www.ctenergyinfo.com
- ▶ **Home Energy Audits**
Home Energy Solutions energy audits are available to all households if you heat with natural gas or electricity for a \$75 fee. 1-877-947-3873; www.uinet.com (follow link to Weatherization page)
- ▶ **Help with Heat**
The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program and the Contingency Heating Assistance Program help offset the costs of winter heating and also pay for weatherization services. For income eligibility and benefit levels, contact the Department of Social Services. 1-800-842-1132



FOR VETERANS

- ▶ **Committee on Veterans' Affairs**
I serve as the Senate Vice-chair of the Connecticut General Assembly's Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs which advocates for active-duty military personnel, veterans and military families in the state legislature. 1-800-842-1420 (ask for my office or the Veterans' Committee)
- ▶ **The Military Family Relief Fund**
This fund provides grants in times of financial hardship for the immediate families of active-duty military personnel and of National Guard and Reserve members who have been mobilized for service in the Global War on Terror. 1-860-524-4910
- ▶ **The Connecticut Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund**
This fund provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families for needs including home heating assistance, help with rental payments and medical and dental expenses. 1-800-491-4941; www.ct.gov/ssmf
- ▶ **The Office of Military Affairs**
This office supports Connecticut's military families and enhances quality of life and advocates for the state's defense industry. 860-270-8074; www.ct.gov/oma



H1N1 FLU

- ▶ **Connecticut Flu Watch**
For facts about influenza, and more information about novel H1N1 influenza, visit the Connecticut Flu Watch Web site. www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch; 1-800-830-9426

You may also contact your local health department:
- ▶ **Groton: Ledge Light Health District**
860-448-4882; www.ledgelighthd.org
- ▶ **Town of Griswold**
860-376-7060; www.griswold-ct.org/sanitationdept.html
- ▶ **Stonington: Town of Stonington**
860-535-5010; www.townofstonington.com
- ▶ **Town of North Stonington**
860-535-2877; www.northstoningtonct.gov/Pages/NStoningtonCT_Dept/Health/
- ▶ **Town of Preston**
860-889-2529; www.preston-ct.org/html/town_directory.html
- ▶ **Voluntown, Sterling, Plainfield: Northeast District Dept. of Health**
860-774-7350; www.nddh.org



FORECLOSURE RELIEF

- ▶ **The First Step in Connecticut**
If you're having trouble paying your mortgage, or are facing delinquency or foreclosure, contact Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven. This agency is prepared to give advice, screen your eligibility for potential assistance programs and offer other resources to help you keep your home. 203-777-6925
- ▶ **Foreclosure Assistance Hotline**
Connecticut's Mortgage Foreclosure Assistance Hotline is available Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 5 PM. The hotline provides materials, contact information and advice for Connecticut homeowners in any stage of foreclosure. 1-877-472-8313
- ▶ **State Foreclosure Mediation Program**
The Connecticut Judicial Branch provides foreclosure mediation in order to help homeowners and lenders reach a mutually agreeable resolution that aims to avoid home foreclosure. www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure



FOR JOBBEEKERS

- ▶ **Where to Turn When Unemployed**
The United Way of Connecticut has produced a document titled "Where to Turn in Connecticut When You Become Unemployed." It contains various resources for individuals who have just lost their jobs. To receive a copy of this helpful publication, contact my office. 1-800-842-1420

TAX CREDITS FROM WASHINGTON

- ▶ **Making Work Pay**
A refundable tax credit of up to \$400, or \$800 if filing a joint return.
- ▶ **Temporary Increase in Earned Income Tax Credit**
Increases to income limits and credit percentages for working families with three or more qualifying children.
- ▶ **Temporary Suspension of Tax on Portion of Unemployment Benefits**
For tax year 2009, taxpayers can exclude up to \$2,400 of unemployment compensation.
- ▶ **The American Opportunity Tax Credit**
The Hope Credit has been extended two years, and up to \$2,500 of allowable expenses may be refundable.
- ▶ **Qualified Opportunity Tax Credit (Sec 529 Accounts)**
For 2009 and 2010, qualified expenses for higher education tax free distributions is expanded.



State Senator
Andrew Maynard
18th District

RESOURCE GUIDE

Serving Griswold, Groton, North Stonington, Plainfield, Preston, Sterling, Stonington & Voluntown

RESOURCES FOR JOBSEEKERS

Where to Turn When Unemployed

The United Way of Connecticut has produced a document titled “Where to Turn in Connecticut When You Become Unemployed.” It contains various resources for individuals who have just lost their jobs: information regarding unemployment insurance, medical benefits, legal assistance, and help with job searches and money management. Contact my office at **1-800-842-1420** to receive this helpful publication or visit the Senate Democrats’ Jobs Web page (see below) to download a copy.



CTWorks Career Centers

Regional, one-stop career centers provide job skills development services, including: job search strategies; resume writing and critique; interviewing techniques; and career exploration. There is a CTWorks center in **Norwich** at 113 Salem Turnpike, North Bldg., Suite 200. **860-859-5600, ext. 6**

More Information Online

- ▶ **www.senatedems.ct.gov/Jobs**
A one-stop source for additional links to the programs described above as well as employment search engines and job postings.
- ▶ **www.ctjobandcareer.org**
CT Job and Career ConneCTion is an online resource for those seeking employment provides self-assessment tools to find the right occupation, general information about various careers and links to search for jobs and employers.
- ▶ **www.jobcentral.org/ct**
CT JobCentral is an online job bank where individuals can search for jobs as well as upload their resume and access various employment-related information.

TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this coupon and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you’re interested in. My contact information is on the opposite side of this mailer.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors |

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

SAVE ON YOUR HEATING BILL

If you’re looking for an easy way to reduce your monthly energy bills you should check out the in-home programs offered by Connecticut Light & Power and funded by the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund. Under these programs, efficiency experts visit your house or apartment to conduct a comprehensive energy assessment. The technicians may:



- ▶ Locate and seal drafts and leaks throughout your home;
- ▶ Evaluate wall and attic insulation and analyze appliances;
- ▶ Provide and install energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs;
- ▶ Discuss and leave information about money-saving tips to stay energy efficient year-round;
- ▶ Provide and install hot water-saving, low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators.

Residential energy audits—performed by Home Energy Solutions—are available to all Connecticut residents, regardless of income, for a one-time fee of \$75. If you’re interested in having an energy audit, call **1-877-947-3873** or visit **www.ctenergyinfo.com**.

TAX CREDITS FROM WASHINGTON

In February, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama. I thought you might be interested in knowing about some of the key provisions that will impact individuals and families:

- ▶ **Making Work Pay:** A refundable tax credit of up to \$400, or \$800 if filing a joint return
- ▶ **Temporary Increase in Earned Income Tax Credit:** Increases to income limits and credit percentages for working families with three or more qualifying children
- ▶ **Temporary Suspension of Tax on Portion of Unemployment Benefits:** For tax year 2009, taxpayers can exclude up to \$2,400 of unemployment compensation.
- ▶ **The American Opportunity Tax Credit:** Hope Credit extended two years, and up to \$2,500 of allowable expenses may be refundable
- ▶ **Qualified Opportunity Tax Credit (Sec 529 Accounts):** For 2009 and 2010, qualified expenses for higher education tax free distributions is expanded

HELPING FAMILIES FACING FORECLOSURE

The housing market crash has had a devastating effect on our state and national economies. Connecticut has been a leader in its effort to keep people in their homes and stabilize property values for all homeowners. We built on that success this year by expanding two important mortgage assistance programs. A new law now requires banks and homeowners to work together to explore options before any foreclosure takes place and expands the banking commissioner’s enforcement and investigative authority.



Resources for Foreclosure Relief

- ▶ **The First Step in Connecticut**
If you’re having trouble paying your mortgage, or are facing delinquency or foreclosure, please contact the Connecticut’s Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) at 1-877-571-2432. CHFA is prepared to give advice, screen your eligibility for potential assistance programs and offer other resources to help you keep your home. You can also contact my office at 1-800-842-1420.
- ▶ **CT FAMILIES**
The Connecticut Fair Alternative Mortgage Lending Initiative & Education Services (CT FAMILIES) Program offers low and moderate-income homeowners the opportunity to refinance their non-FHA, adjustable-rate mortgages into affordable, fixed-rate loans. This program is also administered by CHFA. For more information call CHFA at the number above.
- ▶ **The Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (EMAP)**
EMAP provides financial assistance for up to five years to Connecticut homeowners facing a temporary financial hardship who have fallen behind on their mortgage payments and have received a notice of foreclosure action from their lender. This program is administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA). Call them toll-free at 1-877-571-2432 for more information.
- ▶ **State Foreclosure Mediation Program**
The Connecticut Judicial Branch provides foreclosure mediation in order to help homeowners and lenders reach a mutually agreeable resolution that aims to avoid home foreclosure. For more information, visit the Judicial Branch’s Foreclosure Mediation Program Web site at **www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure**.
- ▶ **Free Advice from the Department of Banking**
Connecticut’s Mortgage Foreclosure Assistance Hotline is available at 1-877-472-8313, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The hotline provides materials, contact information and advice for Connecticut homeowners in any stage of foreclosure.